



Thank
you
Auntie
Ruth









Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and QATSIF Board,

On behalf of the Indigenous students at Arcadia College, we would like to thank you for your contribution in helping our students have access to education that will help us in the future to be successful in employment and our chosen careers. Without your support and the sacrifices that many of our Elders and Ancestors had to make it would not be possible for us to feel as connected to our culture and experience success.

QATSIF scholarships have helped us achieve what many unfortunately do not have the opportunity to achieve and for this we are very grateful.

For me personally having my school fees covered has made me want to attend school, focus on sharing my culture through my artwork and being connected to my peers and community.

Thank you, Ava-Lia'i Mose (Arcadia College)



To Aunty Ruth Hegarty, Professor Cindy Shannon & the QATSIF board,
I am beyond grateful to say I had the opportunity to be a QATSIF recipient throughout years 11-12.

The Scholarship has helped me to be successful in my schooling, education and generally broadened my horizons and way I see the world. I have been able to partake in so many activities due to this scholarship and I cannot express how thankful I am to have had the chance to enhance my education through this opportunity.

My scholarship helped towards a new laptop which greatly contributed to the success in my studies, as it is so important to have a piece of technology that you can rely on to do your work. I was also able to attend my geography trip to Heron Island, where I was able to extend my knowledge on geographical challenges, including water degradation and I was able to partake in many experiences on the island, with memories that will last a lifetime. I was able to snorkel, visit the shipwrecks and even go on a boat ride into the middle of the ocean where we continued to snorkel. All of which I will never forget.

At the beginning of this process in year 10, I had dreams to perhaps one day study law, but I didn't have high hopes as I was worried about my grades and the workload, I was unsure if I would be able to manage such stresses. However, I have picked up my grades (thanks to my scholarship), and my first preference I have submitted on QTAC is a double degree in Law (Honours) and Criminology. I hope to study at Griffith University, one of my main reasons being to make my Ancestors proud. While they had to deal with horrific experiences which no person should ever have to go through, now we can have the opportunity to bring something great out of it, and there is nothing I want more than for their spirits to be watching and smiling, seeing us succeed. Again, I am so, so thankful.

Jaya Hartley (Southport State High School)



Thank you QATSIF. We feel blessed and are grateful for the opportunity your scholarship has provided for our daughter Hayley Smyth from Trinity College (Gladstone).

Kelly Smyth (Parent from Trinity College)



Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Cindy Shannon and the QATSIF Board,

I would like to extend my many thanks to you all for the opportunities that have been made available to me by being acknowledged as a QATSIF scholar.

During my time as a QATSIF scholar I have proudly been involved in many events representing my culture, my school and my family. The events include being a part of the First Nations Club at school, being a part of our school's annual NAIDOC assembly and many community events within our school such as ANZAC Day, Race Day and waitressing at many events throughout the school year. Additionally, I was fortunate to be able to take part in the NAIDOC Day celebrations at another primary school in the area, extending our knowledge of our culture and this year's NAIDOC theme to other students, where we danced, played games and did some painting. I feel very fortunate and grateful to have been a part of so many activities and events through the year.

The QATSIF scholarship funds have assisted me to have easier access to items such as necessary school stationery at the start of the year, many new uniforms, including the uniforms that I needed when I represented our school at the Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball (QISSN) competition over the holidays. Additionally, the funds have also assisted me and my family by being able to purchase a ticket for our year 12 formal in May, along with the English books needed for this year's studies.

After completing high school I will join the Australian Army in Canberra, where I will study a Bachelor of Business at the University of New South Wales. I will undergo intensive military training for three years, where I will be trained to become an Officer. Once I have graduated from the Australia Defence Force Academy, I plan to be posted anywhere around Australia, where I will aim to work in the intelligence corp. In years to come, I hope to utilise my Bachelor of Business to its full potential and hopefully end up working for the United Nations, in the area of International Business and Politics.

Thanks to the assistance of the QATSIF scholarship I am extremely confident, excited and feeling very prepared for my future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved, as QATSIF have provided me with an immense number of opportunities for which I will always be grateful. QATSIF provides support and acknowledges you for all the good that you achieve, and it is a motivator to keep going! Thankyou for everything, I am feeling very grateful.

Camryn McPherson, Boarding Prefect (Rockhampton Girls Grammar School)



Rockhampton Girls
Grammar School
Est 1892

Dear Aunty Ruth Hegarty,

My name is Leilani Bond and I am a proud Aboriginal girl. I would like to thank you for everything you have done for our community. I will always look up to you and I will always Dream Big.

My dream is to be a chef and this QATSIF scholarship has helped me. I wish you the happiest 94th birthday ever :)

Kind regards, Leilani Bond
(San Sisto College)



To dearest Aunty Ruth Hegarty, Professor Cindy Shannon and QATSIF Board members.

I am writing to you to pass on my thanks and gratitude for the fantastic opportunities I have been provided because of the QATSIF scholarship program. I will be forever grateful for the effort and time that many have given, for this has helped to push me in school. This program has and will help boost me in my future educational endeavours.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our Elders and Ancestors who have unfortunately had their wages sacrificed, and because of this program, you have taken a stand to fight and get the wages back and educate many about the importance of this, for which myself, fellow peers, and past and future scholars will be forever grateful.

This scholarship has helped open my eyes and feel more than proud to be a young Aboriginal woman. I have been able to excel because of my Elders and Ancestors and it has motivated me immensely to keep up in school and be very appreciative of such an amazing opportunity.

I cannot wait to hear from other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland, as this program is one of a kind and is a fantastic opportunity that should be continued far into the future to help students to come together and excel to their full potential. I am very and eagerly proud to say that this program is more than beneficial and that it is a vital stepping stone in any student's high school life.

Once again, thank you all for being a part of my high school education and the opportunities I have been given.

Sincerely, Katie Prien (St Patrick's College, Townsville)

Dear Aunty Ruth Hegarty, Prof. Cindy Shannon and QATSIF Board members.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the QATSIF scholarship program in 2022 and 2023 and for all of your time and effort in making this possible. I would also like to acknowledge our Elders and Ancestors for their sacrifice and the grave injustice of Stolen Wages and the time they took to share their wisdom.

This scholarship helped me by opening many doors to educational opportunities that wouldn't have been accessible otherwise. I was able to buy study equipment to help me with preparing for exams and it also helped with paying my school tuition. With the support of this scholarship, it has increased my opportunities within school and also for life after school. QATSIF has also encouraged me to give back to my community and develop valuable leadership skills.

My hope is for the QATSIF scholarship program to continue in the years to come, supporting and inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland to thrive academically and become valuable contributors to their school communities and the communities they are a part of in the future.

Yours Sincerely, Jorja Triffett (St Patrick's College, Townsville)



To Aunty Ruth Hegarty, Professor Cindy Shannon and the QATSIF Board,
On behalf of all 2023 Holy Spirit College QATSIF scholarship recipients, we would love to personally extend our appreciation for this scholarship. By being recipients of this scholarship, it has allowed each one of us to continue our secondary school studies to help us achieve our future endeavours. We recognise the sacrifices of our Elders and Ancestors who provided our QATSIF scholarship and will continue to acknowledge these sacrifices in our future to come.

Yours Sincerely, Brielle, Marissa, Saraya, Emily, Ashalea
(Year 12 Graduating students at Holy Spirit College, Mount Pleasant)



By being a recipient of the QATSIF Scholarship, this has relieved financial stress from my family and allowed me to further my education. This opportunity has allowed me to complete secondary education and develop my future ambitions. It is with great respect and appreciation that I thank you for giving me this opportunity which has allowed me to receive both an ATAR and QCE which leads to studying a dual degree of a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Justice at QUT. Without the support of this scholarship, I believe this would not be possible. Thank you.

– **BRIELLE**

Receiving the scholarship has allowed me to further my education and explore my personal career and schooling opportunities. I am nearing the end of my secondary education and am now looking towards a career in the police force.

The support of QATSIF throughout my last years of high school has allowed me to fulfil opportunities which could not have happened without your support and has allowed my family to support me without the burden of financial stress. I would personally like to thank you for this opportunity as I don't not believe I would be where I am in my career journey without your support.

– **MARISSA**

My QATSIF Scholarship has not only eased the financial burden on my parents but has also ignited my commitment to do well academically. Thanks to your support, I can wholeheartedly concentrate on my studies, my school-based traineeship and future career without my parents having to stress out financially. I am deeply committed to making the most of this opportunity and the support that has been given to me. I hope to one day give it back to the community. Your generosity has made a profound impact on my last years of schooling and I am sincerely thankful for your belief and support.

– **SARAYA**

My QATSIF Scholarship has enabled me to succeed and got me through my school-based traineeship with Westpac Bank. It has allowed me to achieve a full-time job with Westpac starting next year and also advancing into a new role. Through the support of the scholarship, it has allowed me to see further opportunities in the future. I would like to thank you for the support QATSIF has offered and for the opportunity to go further in my career and build a future for myself and a better future for others. Without this scholarship I believe it would all not be possible.

– **EMILY**

By receiving the QATSIF scholarship, it has helped me continue my secondary schooling at Holy Spirit College, alleviating financial stress from my family. This opportunity has allowed me to obtain an early-offer to study a Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) at my preferred university as well as guaranteed residence on-campus. This scholarship has helped me fulfil my goals that I wanted to achieve before I graduated as well as enabled me to take on many other opportunities whilst in high school. Without the support from QATSIF, I don't think I would have gotten this far and I would like to thank you for that.

– **ASHALEA**



The Mansfield SHS recipients of the QATSIF scholarships would like to acknowledge your ongoing commitment to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to achieve their educational dreams.

There still exists a financial barrier and burden for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families to successfully access and participate in senior secondary education. However, the QATSIF initiative reduces that challenge, and provides the strong foundations to further education, training and employment.

Our dreams are no longer just dreams but realities and lead to pathways for life improvements.

We hope that we have made you proud by our schooling achievements, in particular as newly graduating year 12 First Nations students for 2023. We confidently look forward to continuing to flourish and cement our rightful place in this continuum of learning.

Once again thank you so much for supporting us and best wishes for 2024!

Kind regards, Kyah Moncur (Mansfield State High School)

Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Cindy Shannon and QATSIF Board,

I would firstly like to start by thanking all of you for the amazing opportunities that have been given to multiple students at Spinifex State College. Since it reduces the financial concerns, it gives us more opportunity to focus on our academics, mental health and cultural practices. It makes it so that we don't have to worry about any 'shame' surrounding financial differences and instead can celebrate being together.

Thank you for pushing for a change that needed to occur to help many Indigenous peoples feel included and loved once again. You are the reason most of us stayed and persisted in schooling, pushing us to get over the line. If it weren't for that support, most of us wouldn't be here today.

My name is Jasmin Harris and I am the Year 12 Indigenous Captain of Spinifex State College. I have always felt that I don't belong as an Indigenous person. But this changed when I finally got the chance to feel connected to my culture through this scholarship. It not only reduced the financial load but was a bridge to connect with my peers which assisted to make me feel wanted, like I could achieve something for myself, my family, and my Ancestors. With this scholarship, I personally feel more supported in all types of environments, including school, home, workplaces and the overall community.

This has really made a difference to my future and showed me that I am much more than this small town and that my dreams are not impossible, even if people say they are. Thank you for helping not only me, but also other students around Queensland, and future students to come. This has helped to bridge the gap and put me and my peers all on the same playing field and for that I am thankful.

Jasmin Harris, Indigenous Captain (Spinifex State College - Mount Isa)



Dear Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation,

Thank you so much for your support over the past two years. The QATSIF Scholarship money was instrumental in assisting me in getting to graduation. Coming from a single parent, low-income household, I've been able to use the scholarship money to help purchase a range of things and in effect it has assisted my whole family by relieving that financial pressure. With the QATSIF Scholarship I have purchased new uniforms, including: shoes, plenty of stationery, my senior jersey, graduation dinner tickets and to cover my school fees from the past two years. I am so incredible grateful to be a part of QATSIF, not just for the financial benefits, but because I felt part of a bigger community, thanks to the awards, recognition and QATSIF graduation ceremony. Those memories in my mind are priceless.



In the many years to come I aim to promote QATSIF as much as I can to help the next generation of our mob obtain that financial assistance and to get that push to continue through high school to graduation. I am a strong believer in Indigenous Education, and I believe the education of our mob will be a major contribution to Closing the Gap. In future, one aspiration I hold is to somehow continue to assist more Indigenous students get an education and I feel confident knowing QATSIF will be there to help with that as well.

Once more, I offer you my deepest appreciation and I anticipate seeing the future academic success of First Nations students, especially those who are a part of QATSIF.

God Bless.

Danzel Lewis, 2023 School Captain (Bowen State High School)

Dear Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation,

My name is Zachary Coventry, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity given to me by the QATSIF Scholarship as it has provided me with the financial aid necessary to better afford the expenses of my education.

In particular, this money has assisted me in affording school equipment such as a graphics calculator for my math methods subjects, graduation tickets, payment of school fees and uniform expenses which would otherwise have been harder to afford. Therefore, I am extremely thankful for this opportunity as the equipment paid for with QATSIF money has allowed me to achieve academic success across all of my schooling subjects, leading to my acceptance into university.

In future, I will spread the importance of the QATSIF Scholarship to younger members of the Bowen SHS community in hopes that they can benefit in the same ways that I have in order to achieve much deserved success. I hope that we can see a larger proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohort achieving academic success and chasing their dreams as this scholarship has allowed me to do.

King Regards, Zachary Coventry (Bowen State High School)



Dear Aunty Ruth Hegarty,

I would like to begin by acknowledging you and your tribe and for you all you have done for us and the past Elders who have helped us become who we are today. I acknowledge the sacrifices you and our mob have made to help younger children like me to succeed and develop.

I thank you for allowing me to gain a scholarship that has helped me through my last years of my schooling journey. I appreciate all you have done, and it hasn't gone unnoticed.



Thank you, Amy Meacle (St John's School, Roma)



Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and the QATSIF Board Members,

Galangoor Djali, I wish to take this opportunity as I countdown my final weeks of Year 12 to thank you for your support during my senior schooling years at St Mary's College. Being awarded a QATSIF Scholarship has provided me with opportunities to successfully complete a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways and a Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology. I have also completed many Work Experience placements, receiving positive feedback each time. I will receive my Queensland Certificate of Education and most recently secured full-time employment with a local manufacturing business.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages make

QATSIF Scholarships possible. As a proud recipient of a QATSIF Scholarship I will be forever grateful for the opportunities this funding has provided.

Galangoor nyin (Thank you), Billy-Jack Shivlock (St Mary's College, Maryborough)



Aunty Ruth,

We wish to thank you for the opportunities our QATSIF scholarship has awarded us. The encouragement and belief was a blessing in our senior school journey at St Monica's College.



God bless.

Hannah, Ashleigh, Tamilyn and Shaquanna (St Monica College, Cairns).

QATSIF's 15th Anniversary social media messages from families of past QATSIF Scholarship holders and community members

Congratulations to the entire team for reaching this significant milestone. Over the years, QATSIF has been instrumental in empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across Queensland.

The Foundation has been such a success because of all of you and in particular from the courageous and inspirational leadership from Aunty Ruth and Professor Cindy Shannon. All of you, including the amazing Board and wonderful Secretariat (and the PT's dedicated trust team) have shown what is possible if we prioritise education, nurturing future leaders, and fostering hope within our First Nations communities.

The impact of your efforts in bridging gaps and building a foundation for a brighter future cannot be overstated – thank you from me and everyone at the Queensland Public Trustee.

We are genuinely honoured to stand beside you and be inspired by the amazing work that you do, as well as have the privilege to see the emergence of future First Nations and broader Australian community leaders.

– Samay Zhouand, The Public Trustee of Queensland

My daughter Jakhobi has just completed her law degree and has commenced work as a Judge's Associate in Brisbane, BIG thanks to the QATSIF funding she received in year 11 and 12 which helped immensely.

– Michelle & Jarrod Moren

QATSIF you are amazing!! Thank you Michael and all the team, we are all so appreciative!! 2024 is going to be incredible!



– Shannon Margaret

Happy anniversary, and thank you for all you do 🖤💛❤️

– Mj Williams

Happy Anniversary QATSIF. Thank you, thank you, thank you



– Raelene Griffin

Doing such great things with a few incredible people 🙏❤️

– Kylie Moses

Happy Anniversary QATSIF and congratulations on all you do for scholarships and supporting Indigenous education. A remarkable staff!

– Judy Hart

Congratulations to all whom made it possible for each and successful application throughout the years. What an honour to provide pathways, past, present and future.

– Rae Cottam

Happy Anniversary to QATSIF you do a wonderful job looking after all of the Indigenous students ❤️

– Sue Taylor

Happy Anniversary QATSIF, thank you for the support you provide to Indigenous students 🖤💛❤️

– Jodes Warns

Thanks again Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation. This will again greatly assist our family. Respect to the Stolen Wages generation. Their work has not been in vain.

– Kerrelyn Mahoney

Happy Anniversary QATSIF! What an amazing achievement and we know how much these scholarships have helped our *jarjums* to continue their education and to not feel alone when struggling to obtain what everyone else has for school and can do at school, I see it on the ground working in the schools, thank you for your continuing support, a great team.

– Trish Noel Borg

Happy anniversary! You do such a great job working with our community.

– Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane

Happy Anniversary 🎉

– Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust



2023 Christmas wishes

Thank you and Merry Christmas to you QATSIF Mob. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to you all for being so helpful and patient to our YMCA community. I look forward to working with you in 2024.

– Krystal Wighton (YMCA Schools)

Merry Christmas to you and the team.

Thanks for keeping me in the loop with QATSIF developments this year and for all the deadly work you have done supporting schools and young people. Look forward to further engagement in 2024.

– Andrew Kirkpatrick, Education Officer (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education – Edmund Rice Schools)

Thank you to all the QATSIF Team. You have such an important role in supporting our students and ensuring they continue and be the very best they can be. Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday!

– Lisa (Canterbury College, Waterford)

I just wanted to say a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your team. Thank you for all the support that you have given to Laidley SHS throughout 2023. Enjoy your break.

– Karen Day, CEC (Laidley SHS)

Thank you for all your hard work this year team. Merry Christmas!

– Tara and the St James College Mob

Thank you for all your work that you do in this space. Hope you enjoy a wonderful break over Christmas.

– Dayna Petrie, First Nations Engagement Leader (St Columban's College, Caboolture)









QATSIF

Building tomorrow's leaders

**2023 Queensland Philanthropic
Foundation of the Year**

